

Meeting Highlights – January 17, 2002

1. Call to Order: Chairman Reiner called the meeting to order at 8:55.
2. Roll Call: Chairman Rob Reiner, Commissioners Kim Belshé, Karen Hill-Scott, Sandra Gutierrez, Louis Vismara and Theresa Garcia were in attendance. Commissioners Elizabeth Rice Grossman and Glen Rosselli were absent.
3. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Reiner moved to approve, and Commissioner Gutierrez seconded. Minutes were approved as drafted.
4. Chairman's Report: Rob Reiner
 - Chairman Reiner announced the appointment this month of a new Commission member. Elizabeth Rice Grossman was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee to the position on the Commission formerly held by Susan Lacey, whose term expired in December. Ms. Grossman has an interest and significant background in working with at-risk youth, and children with disabilities and other special needs. She is a native San Franciscan.
 - UCLA and the "I am Your Child" Foundation hosted an International Conference on early childhood development: "Developing Comprehensive Community-Based Early Childhood Systems." Chairman Reiner, some Commission staff, and some County Commission Executive Directors attended. This conference presented an opportunity to exchange information and ideas with early childhood development experts from Australia, Canada, and Great Britain, and set the stage for an international learning collaborative.
 - Information on the proposed FY 2002-03 state budget (released January 10) was presented by Joe Munso. The Governor's proposed budget does not include using Proposition 10 funds for other purposes. It includes a proposal to eliminate and shift some children currently being served by the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program to Healthy Families and Medi-Cal. The Governor's Budget proposes to eliminate the Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC) effective January 1, 2003.
 - Chairman Reiner reported that he has had discussions with Senator Edward Kennedy about early care and education and that the Senator and others at the federal level understand the importance of investing in the needs of young children. He noted specifically that the Senator last week gave a speech, in which he spoke extensively about making an investment in early childhood education and for its inclusion in the federal Education Reform Act.
 - Chairman Reiner noted the importance of working with law enforcement as a partner, since raising children who are healthier and more successful is based in part on their basic safety. Commissioner Vismara suggested that the Commission consider having a panel of law enforcement officials on early childhood education, much like the other four panels of subject-matter experts that presented their expertise and recommendations to the Commission.

- With the rollout of the Commission's School Readiness Initiative, Chairman Reiner reported that Governor Davis has expressed an interest in being involved and has asked that the Commission keep him informed.
- Public Comment on the Chairman's Report included a representative from CHDP, who stated that CHDP does not want to leave any child behind, and it is their job to protect all children. CHDP wants to make sure that all children and parents are equipped and connected to essential services and referred for developmental deficiencies, and many other services. Approx 1 million children receive services from CHDP. She posited that the Governor's proposed cuts are devastating for a large number of children who will lose coverage because they will not qualify for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal, and for those that will not receive the same case management services under those programs as they do under the CHDP program.
- Additional public comment provided by Patricia Siegel, Director of the California Resource and Referral Network, noted that the Governor's proposed budget thins out childcare reforms and proposes many changes that would be detrimental to children and families, including a significant increase in parent fees.

5. Executive Director's Report: Jane Henderson

- The Commission has three Requests for Proposal (RFPs) underway:
 - Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation RFP: Applications are due January 18; it is anticipated that the contract will be in place in March 2002.
 - Technical Assistance to County Commissions RFP: This RFP was released on January 9, and was sent to over 200 possible bidders, the pre-bid conference is on January 29th. Proposals are due from bidders on March 25, and it is anticipated that the contract will be in effect in June 2002.
 - Community-Based Outreach RFP: The first round of CBO RFPs was released on January 7 for the Bay Area and Sacramento regions.
- The Commission's meeting in February will be a 2-day retreat on February 14 and 15 in Los Angeles. The Commission will conduct its business meeting the morning of the 14th, and will commence in the afternoon and all day the 15th with discussions on its priority-setting for the coming fiscal year.
- Conference registration forms for the Statewide Conference for County Commissions have been sent out and are due February 19, 2002. This conference will be held March 21-22, 2002, in San Diego. There will be pre-conference seminars on March 20.
- The Commission's Childcare Accreditation Project intends to increase number of childcare providers in California, and is targeting family childcare centers that are in areas of low performing schools.

6. California Children and Families Association Report - Pat Wheatley

- New officers have been elected by CCAFA members, including: Pat Wheatley - President; Brenda Blasingame - Vice President; Steve Ladd - Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Friedman – Media Subcommittee; Gloria Bryngleson – Technical Assistance Subcommittee; Mike Ruane – Policy Subcommittee; Evelyn Martinez – Program Planning Subcommittee; Gloria

Wyeth – Evaluation Subcommittee; Kris Perry – Urban Caucus; Anne Molgard – Rural Caucus; and Paul Crissy – Suburban Caucus.

7. Policy Panel on Informal Child Care

- This is the second of four panels of experts being brought to the Commission to inform them on gaps in services and to make recommendations on the most important challenges and problems facing children and families.
- Dr. Henderson spoke about some of the issues surrounding informal childcare, such as, 39% of all families in California use subsidized and/or familial care, and 54% use informal childcare. Dr. Henderson introduced the panelists and asked for panelists' two most important unmet needs that Prop 10 should consider funding, given its limited resources. Panelists' names and a summary of their comments follow:
- Patricia Siegel, Director, California Resource and Referral Network: Ms. Siegel recommended supporting more research and support efforts to improve the quality of license-exempt care childcare by building on existing infrastructure. Licensed-exempt care is defined broadly by those who are relatives, nanny, babysitter, or friends. 70% of low-income families choose informal care largely because of their rotating work shifts (41% of low-income mothers work non-traditional hours). Some of the barriers to licensed day care are affordability, accessibility, and availability. She reported that the average childcare center cost in 2001 was \$9,400. The "Trustline" program performs background checks for informal caregivers that participate in the subsidized childcare program, and about 10% of all the people that apply are disqualified due to a criminal background. (Grandparents, aunts, and uncles are not currently required to have the background check.) Ms. Siegel also recommended that the Commission build on its media campaign and support provider training to initiate more talking and activities with young children.
- Erendira Abel, Director of Policy & Development, Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc: Ms. Abel recommended creating a force for change for ethnically diverse communities by changing the way we perceive cultural barriers. She suggested bringing all stakeholders to the table and funding community-based organizations (CBOs) that are in and know the community. Ms. Abel reported that her organization finds unlicensed childcare providers and gets them into education and training programs. The program is successful and the results for the caregivers are positive: the average income of a participant prior to licensing is \$6,700 a year; after they get licensed, it goes up to \$19,046.
- Donna Gay, Resource and Referral Manager, Child Care Coordinating Council, San Mateo: Ms. Gay recommended that the Commission provide funding to pay for outreach workers to recruit the exempt providers. A recommendation was also made to distribute the videos from the Commissions' Kit for New Parents to exempt caregivers. Mobile vans are another very valuable way to reach exempt providers and get them the information that they need.
- Judy Ishiura, UC Davis Extension, Family Child Care at Its Best: Ms. Ishiura suggested that the Commission provide childcare training project workshops for care providers. She also recommended that the Commission to consider having speakers and pamphlets in languages other than English and Spanish.

She commented that if the Commission were to link existing resources, it would be easier for people to get their needs met. Her final suggestion to the Commission was to conduct research to gain a better understanding of what providers need.

- Janet Shaw, Program Supervisor, Community Connection for Child Care, Kern County Office of Superintendent of Schools: Ms. Shaw recommended using existing resources to develop a manual to tell other communities how they can develop community-based training. She also suggested that the Commission fund programs that offer distance-learning programs and home-based training.
- Dolores Terrazas, San Francisco City and County Child Care Coordinator: Ms. Terrazas suggested that the Commission establish an equitable partnership with community-based organizations and resource and referral agencies. She recommended the Commission do a talk radio show, and said many people would be reached with that form of media. She mentioned that in San Francisco, there will be three outreach efforts, and suggested the Commission provide the funds for an incentive to their response survey.
- Public Comment: Raphael Lopez, of the Santa Cruz County Children and Families County Commission, advised the Commission to put dollars in the low-income communities and ask the counties who the people are that need them. Gene Lucas said we had already produced a wonderful training package, but no one knows about it. When you have educated the providers, you will have educated children who will be ready for school. Anne asked us to stand up and demand that the Legislature standardize the health and safety requirements in childcare centers. Arnold Torres cautioned the Commission on the use and pitfalls of the promotoras. Erica Grub urged us to look at the nutrition being provided in child care settings, and look into the Childcare Food Program which will provide 2 meals and 1 snack a day that meet the Nation's nutrition standards. She also alerted the Commission to other activities that Nutrition Program staff could potentially carry out while they are in the homes of childcare providers.

8. Closed Session

9. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000/2001 – Joseph Munso - Action

- The Annual Report describes what the State Commission has done to date, highlights items in the CCFC business plan, and shows our key investments and partnerships with the counties. It provides a fiscal synopsis of the State Commission and its future directions. In the Annual Report, each county commission will be provided with a page that represents their current fiscal picture. This was the first attempt to capture strategies and outcomes with dollars. This report is a snapshot of what has happened and what will happen in the future. The report is due to the Governor and Legislature by January 31, 2002, in accordance with statute. The Commission's equity principles will be incorporated into the report. **Action:** Draft was approved with the provision that changes could be made until January 22, 2002, by the Commissioners.

10. Child Development Permit Project – Emily Nahat - Action

- Commission staff proposed a redirection of funds to the Child Development Permit Project to cover selected costs associated with Early Childhood Educators' applications for the Child Development Permits. Ms. Nahat identified the six different permit levels. 42 counties participated, and the Commission has received over 3,000 applications from providers. Under this proposal, the Commission will provide technical assistance to providers and counties, pay application fees, and reimburse applicants for the fingerprinting fee. Linda Butterfield stated that last year her organization was able to fund all six levels of the Child Development Permit Matrix. Prior to this year, there were resources available to fund this project. Due to the increase in volume, her organization does not have enough funds to pay for all of the matrix levels. The contractor received \$500,000 last year and received the same amount this year. Supplantation is not an issue. **Action:** Commissioner Belshé motioned, Chairman Reiner seconded: action approved.

11. School Readiness Component of the Legislature's Master Plan for Education – Judy Stucki/Patricia Skelton

- The Master Plan workgroup is moving into the final phase and the School Readiness working group is on task. There were 33 separate ideas put forth which has been reduced to about half that number by establishing a format that sets a goal, and then recommendations and action items to carry out the recommendation and meet the goal. There is now a draft document, which has been shared with a steering group that met January 16, 2002, to guide final deliberations. The last meeting of the entire group will be on January 25th at which time the working group will try to gain consensus on every recommendation. The largest issue remaining is governance. The group largely agrees on a state structure that creates a Department of Early Childhood Development. However, there is still disagreement regarding the authority and flow of monies between the county and the local levels. By March 22, 2002, all working groups will have made their final recommendations on the Master Plan.
- The complete Master Plan will be done on May 1, 2002, will go out for public comment, and the Legislature will be holding public hearings on it. The final Master Plan will be presented to the Legislature in August.

12. Update on School Readiness Initiative – Roberta Peck

- The Commission reported 100% participation from the counties that were eligible. 19 County Commissions (Alameda, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, and Ventura) have applied for the Phase IB round. The State review is scheduled for February 4th, 5th and 6th. Other counties are getting ready for the Phase II round of applications.

13. Adjournment

Next Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, February 14 and 15, 2002.